

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration of the above-referenced application in view of the above amendment, and of the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

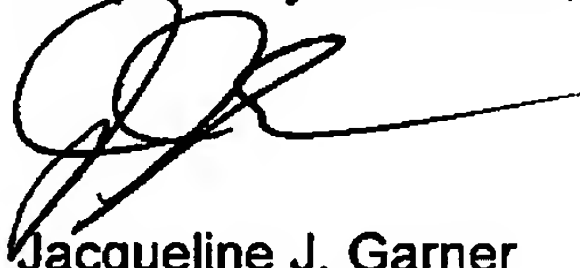
Claims 1-17 are pending in this case. Claim 1 is amended herein. Claims 18-20 are cancelled as they are drawn to a non-elected invention.

Prosecution on the merits is closed.

The Examiner required correction of formal matters in claim 1. Claim 1 is amended as required by the Examiner except that "the exposed oxide" is replaced with --unreacted first layer of metal material thus exposing oxide material; removing exposed oxide—to better indicate that the removal of unreacted first layer of metal material and removing the exposed oxide are separate steps.

In light of the above, Applicant respectfully requests continued allowance of claims 1-17. If the Examiner has any questions or other correspondence regarding this application, Applicant requests that the Examiner contact Applicant's attorney at the below listed telephone number and address.

Respectfully submitted,



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